

Please replace the first paragraph of page 1 of the specification with the following:

This application is a divisional of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/487,024, filed January 19, 2000, now issued as U.S. Patent No. 6,494,211, which is a continuation of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/019,014, filed February 5, 1998 now abandoned, which is a division of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 08/486,941, filed June 7, 1995, now U.S. Patent No. 5,799,661, which is a continuation-in-part of ~~copending~~ U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 08/281,891, filed July 28, 1994, now U.S. Patent No. 5,735,290, which itself is a continuation-in-part of copending U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 08/023,778, filed February 22, 1993, now U.S. Patent No. 5,452,733. The complete disclosures of these related U.S. patent applications are hereby incorporated herein by reference for all purposes.

1-105 (Cancelled)

106. (Currently Amended) A surgical retraction device comprising:

- a shaft having a proximal end and a distal end;
- a contact surface adjacent said distal end for ~~atraumatically contacting~~ manipulating or retracting living tissue within a body cavity; and
- a means for applying a vacuum at said contact surface.

107. (Original) The surgical retraction device of claim 106 wherein said means for applying a vacuum at said contact surface comprises a passage from said proximal end to said distal end of said shaft, said passage being in fluid communication with said contact surface.

108. (Original) The surgical retraction device of claim 106 wherein said contact surface further comprises a friction-increasing surface.

109-120 (Cancelled)

121. (Currently Amended) A surgical retraction device for retracting a body structure within a body cavity, the body structure having a curved external surface, the surgical retraction device comprising:

- a rigid shaft having a distal end and a proximal end, the shaft having a contact surface near the distal end with a curvature selected to conform to the external surface of the body structure; and

- a textured, porous material attached to the contact surface for frictionally engaging the body structure;

- wherein a distal portion of the shaft including the contact surface and porous material may be introduced into the body cavity through an opening ~~access port~~ with a diameter of at most about 12 mm.

122. (Original) The surgical retraction device of claim 121 wherein the porous material comprises a fabric pad.

123. (Original) The surgical retraction device of claim 121 wherein the porous material comprises surgical gauze.

124. (Original) The surgical retraction device of claim 121 wherein the porous material comprises a foam pad.

125. (Original) The surgical retraction device of claim 121 wherein the porous material is wrapped around a distal portion of the shaft.

126. (Original) The surgical retraction device of claim 121 wherein the contact surface comprises a lateral surface of a distal portion of the shaft, the distal portion of the shaft having a diameter of less than about 10 mm.

127. (Original) The surgical retraction device of claim 121 wherein the porous material covers the distal end of the shaft.

128. (Original) The surgical retraction device of claim 121 further comprising an aspiration lumen within the shaft extending from the proximal end to at least the contact surface, and a plurality of holes in the contact surface in communication with the lumen, whereby a vacuum may be applied through the aspiration lumen and the holes to withdraw fluids from the porous material.

129. (Original) The surgical retraction device of claim 121 wherein at least a portion of the shaft is malleable such that the contact surface may be shaped into various curvatures.

130-149 (Cancelled).

150-181 (Omitted/Cancelled)

182. (New) The surgical retraction device of claim 106 wherein the means for applying a vacuum includes a plurality of suction holes spaced along the contact surface.

183. (New) The surgical retraction device of claim 182 wherein the means for applying a vacuum includes a passage that communicates with the series of suction holes spaced along the contact surface.